

Telephone Exchange at Chapra in Bihar

991. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commissioning of Chapra Exchange in Bihar after expansion has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons and period of delay thereof;

(c) whether the required capacity of Air Conditioning and Power Generation after capacity expansion is inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About three and half months delay on account of difficulty in providing airconditioning.

(c) Adequate Power supply has since been made available. Marginal extra capacity of A/C Plant is required.

(d) Additional Window type A/C Units have been installed. The exchange is scheduled for commissioning within a month.

Reduction of Airfares

992. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to reduce the airfares of Air India and Indian Airlines between Kozhikode (Calicut) and West Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other facilities which are given by the Air India and Indian Airlines to gulf bound passengers at Calicut airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced special fares on international flights ex-Calicut effectively giving discounts of 10% - 15% on IATA published fares to bring the fare structure ex-Calicut at par with that prevalent ex-Trivandrum.

(c) Indian Airlines also operates domestic leg of international flights on Calicut - Bombay sector to enable international passengers travelling over Bombay to complete customs and immigration formalities at Calicut itself.

[Translation]

Crushing of Sugarcane

993. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced certain

incentives for sugar mills to continue their crushing work even after June 1996 in view of availability of huge quantity of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that even after the announcement of these incentives the sugar mills did not continue the crushing work of sugarcane after June 1996;

(d) the number of those sugar mills who are ready to crushing after June;

(e) whether the Government had enquired about the quantity of sugarcane available in the country before the announcement of such incentives;

(f) if so, the State-wise break-up thereof; and

(g) the quantity of sugarcane utilised for sugar production in the current crushing year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). To compensate sugar factories for uneconomic operation due to low recovery during the hot summer months, the Government has announced incentive in the form of higher free-sale sugar quota at the rate of 75% for the period 15th April to 31st May, 1996 and 100% for the period 1st June to 30th September, 1996 as against normal free sale quota of 60%.

(c) and (d). No Sir, Out of 412 factories which started crushing operation during the current season, 1995-96, 101 factories were still in operation as on 1-7-96.

(e) and (f). There were reports about standing cane required to be crushed even beyond June and as such to facilitate this late crushing the above incentive was announced. It can be availed of only by such units which continued to crush cane during the above periods.

(g) As per available information received from sugar factories about 1505 lakh tonnes of sugarcane has been crushed during the current season, 1995-96 (upto 31-5-1996).

Cess on Sugar

994. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether tax is levied as Sugar Development Cess from sugar industry in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of recovering the cess and since when such cess recovery is started and the total amount collected by the end of March, 1996;

(c) whether any financial assistance or grants were given under different heads from the amount collected through cess during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;